UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/123
29 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Item 66 of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 23 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Union, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the Presidency of the European Union on the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty negotiations.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 66 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI

* A/51/50.

96-10822 (E) 010596 020596

/...

Annex

DECLARATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

The European Union attaches the highest priority and is strongly committed to the conclusion, before the end of the spring session of the Conference on Disarmament, of the negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will prohibit any nuclear-weapon-test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, so as to enable its signature by autumn, at the outset of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

The European Union stresses the importance of ensuring that the treaty is universal and is internationally and effectively verifiable.

Such a treaty will be a concrete step in the full realization and effective implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It will contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security.

The European Union welcomes and endorses the "zero yield" option supported by a large number of countries and calls on those countries that have not yet done so to subscribe to this position.

The European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated countries, Cyprus and Malta, align themselves with the present declaration.